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LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1951

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1951

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. D. H. Waldron, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Retd.)

SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR

Leonard W. Eves, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Council Offices
6 Leighton Road
LINSLADE
25th July, 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Linslade

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951.

The Birth Rate shows a very satisfactory rise over last year and is much more than that for the rest of the County and England and Wales.

The Death Rate is much the same as last year and although higher than that for the County compares very well with that for England and Wales. Of the total of 42 deaths, 23 were due to heart disease and allied complaints and 6 were due to cancer.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a very satisfactory drop and is much lower than last year's figure and is also much less than that for the County and for England and Wales.

In January and February there was an epidemic of Measles amongst the children, a total of 60 cases being notified. Most of the cases were mild and there were no deaths.

I should like to record another happy year of co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. P. J. Uphill, and your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. L. W. Eves.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

(A) VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres		1,693
Population	(1951 census)	3,269
Number of Inhabited Houses		1,016
Rateable Value	(1.4.51)	£19,117
Rate in the £		25/-
Sum represented by a penny rate		£76

BIRTHS

Legitimate (male)		33
,, (female)		26
Illegitimate		Nil
Birth Rate per 1,000 population		18.1
,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	(Bucks)	15.1
,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	(England & Wales)	15.5

DEATHS

Males		18
Females		24
Death Rate per 1,000 population		12.9
,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	(Bucks)	10.8
,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	(England & Wales)	12.5
Still Births		1
Maternal Mortality Rate		Nil
,, ,, ,,	(Bucks)	0.5
,, ,, ,,	(England & Wales)	0.79

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	1950			1951		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	1	1	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	4	6	10	4	2	6
Diabetes	0	1	1	0	0	0
Haemhorrage into Nervous System	2	4	6	2	4	6
Heart Diseases	7	8	15	10	7	17
Pneumonia	1	0	1	0	3	3
Bronchitis	1	0	1	0	0	0
Digestive Diseases	2	0	2	0	1	1
Congenital Causes	1	0	1	0	0	0
Accidents	1	0	1	0	2	2
All other causes	4	0	4	2	5	7
Totals	23	20	43	18	24	42

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 births ..	16.9
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (Bucks)	24.6
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (England & Wales)	29.6
Deaths from Measles	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	Nil

(B) GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton. This arrangement has worked out very satisfactorily.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services were taken over by the County Council from 6th July, 1948. For general cases and accidents, three motor ambulances are maintained in the district, and for cases of infectious diseases the motor ambulance from the Isolation Hospital at Aylesbury is obtained.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

This, as also her maternity duties, was carried out by the District Nurse, in her usual efficient manner.

4. CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A centre at The Forster Institute has held regular sessions on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. A Medical Officer attends once a month, and the District Nurse and Health Visitor each session.

5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have received cases from the area :—

Luton and Dunstable
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury
Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury
Spittlesea Hospital, Luton
Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury

(C) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The two boreholes from which Linslade receives its public supply continued to yield satisfactorily. Consumption during the year was 45,403,000 gallons.

Bacteriological samples were regularly taken during the year, both from the reservoir and from various points on the distribution system.

The six samples from the reservoir were all reported upon as highly satisfactory. Ten samples from the various points on the distribution system were reported upon as highly satisfactory and two as fairly satisfactory.

In the case of the two fairly satisfactory results repeat samples from the same premises were highly satisfactory.

Chemical

Chemical examination of a sample taken on 11/9/51 was reported upon as follows :—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance ..	Bright with a very slight deposit of mineral debris
Turbidity	Less than 3
Colour	Nil
Odour	Nil
pH	7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	11
Electric Conductivity	630
Total Solids	420
Chlorine present as Chloride ..	16
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ..	235
Hardness : Total	375
Carbonate	235
Non-carbonate	140
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.10
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.025
Residual Chlorine	—
Metals ..	Iron : Less than 0.03. Other metals : absent

"This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance since it carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is neutral in reaction, very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

"Apart from the objection that the water tends to be very hard it is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes."

1,002 houses were supplied with water from the public mains direct to their houses and nine by means of standpipes. It is estimated that 99.5% of the population of the district receive water from the public supply.

A report by the Consulting Engineers on the need for a new rising main, additional borehole and increased storage was under consideration at the end of the year.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Efforts to produce a satisfactory effluent at the sewage disposal works continued to be made during the year.

Overloaded conditions combined with the unsatisfactory state of the plant and equipment, led the Council to decide to seek permission to carry out improvements and the Council's Consulting Engineers were accordingly asked to prepare a report. The report was received and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government towards the end of the year.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The weekly house and trade refuse collection was carried out very satisfactorily.

We continued to use the Leighton Buzzard Refuse Tip on an agreed financial basis.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Periodic inspections of the canal, rivers and streams within the Urban District did not reveal any serious pollution.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths or pools suitable for bathing within the Urban District.

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The mortuary, which is the joint responsibility of this authority and the Wing Rural District Council, was used only once during the year.

(D) HOUSING

Development of the Council's Soulbury Road Housing site continued satisfactorily and by the end of the year a further seventeen houses were completed and occupied, bringing the post-war total to one hundred and twenty-seven.

Fifteen houses and sixteen flats to complete the estate were in an advanced stage of construction.

Approval to a further housing site at Mentmore Road suitable for about 100 houses was obtained during the year, and advance preparation of plans proceeded with, although physical possession of the site could not be obtained until March, 1952.

Eight houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

Twenty-eight informal notices were served for the execution of housing repairs. Two Statutory Notices only were necessary to secure the carrying out of the works required.

(E) NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYELAWS, ETC.

1. GENERAL

Complaints of nuisance were dealt with by informal action. Twenty-nine notices were served during the year, but in no case was Statutory action necessary.

2. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

No action was necessary under the above mentioned Act during the year. Form 572 has been completed.

3. MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGS., 1926-1948

The dairies within the Urban District were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

4. ICE CREAM

Regular inspections of retail premises were made.

Of the 32 samples taken, 19 were in Grade 1, 11 were in grade 2, and 2 were in grade 3.

As regards the Grade 3 samples action was taken to effect an improvement.

5. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses in use within the district.

6. UNSOUND FOOD

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of food found to be unfit for human consumption, as follows :—

30 tins of fish	2 tins of soup
29 ,, ,, vegetables	15lb. cheese
21 ,, ,, milk	12lb. sweets
6 ,, ,, meat	2 jars of pickles
42 ,, ,, fruit	2 jellies

7. RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ORDERS, 1919-1943

Regular inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were undertaken by the Council's Rodent Operator, whose services are shared with Leighton Buzzard U.D.C.

Destruction work was carried out as follows :—

Dwelling Houses	69
Business Premises	3

Sewer inspections were made, and test baiting and maintenance treatment carried out as required by the Ministry of Food.

(F) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

There was a big increase in the number of cases of Measles notified. This was due to an epidemic which occurred amongst the school children in January and February.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	1950	1951
Whooping Cough	25	Nil
Measles	4	60
Scarlet Fever	1	2
Pneumonia	12	16
Food Poisoning	3	3
Dysentery	Nil	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	1

3. CANCER

There were 6 deaths during the year compared with 10 in 1950.

4. TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. Three cases were notified.

D. H. WALDRON

(Medical Officer of Health)

H. JACKSON & Co.
(Printers & Publishers)
High Street, Leighton Buzzard